



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

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## Venezuela

### Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

### Animal Health a Concern

**2009**

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**Report Highlights:**

Representatives of a leading cattle producer organization express their concerns about disease monitoring and control as Venezuela transitions to a new animal and plant health entity.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Annual Report  
Caracas [VE1]  
[VE]

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## Executive Summary

Per press reports, the main Venezuelan Cattle Association is urging its members to monitor animal health with the transition from SASA to the National Institute of Integral Agricultural Health, INSAI. According to industry representatives, proper controls are not being implemented and there is little surveillance after the dismissal of 2,700 technicians from the old institution.

### Fedenaga Urges Farmers to Watch Health Policies

The president of the main Venezuelan Cattle Association, FEDENAGA, noted that skilled workers have been dismissed from the Venezuelan Agricultural Health Service (Instituto Autónomo de Sanidad Agropecuaria, or SASA) in the process of creating the new National Institute of Integral Agricultural Health (Instituto Nacional de Salud Agrícola Integral, or INSAI).

FEDENAGA affirmed that during the transition “2,700 technicians from SASA at a national level were dismissed without having replacements and/or a parallel structure assembled, leaving the country vulnerable to sanitary problems. These technicians controlled the internal transportation of animals and food imports, but currently there is no surveillance.”

Industry representatives have opined about the possibility that viruses that do not exist in Venezuela may be brought with bulls imported from Brazil, “FMD may come also on the meat imported without the proper controls, and since 1949 we have been struggling against this disease.”